

Congressman King Supports Placing Borlaug Statue in U.S. Capitol

Washington D.C.- Congressman Steve King (R-IA) released the following statement after attending the bill signing ceremony for a resolution which permits the placement of a statue of Dr. Norman Borlaug in the United States Capitol's Statuary Hall. The resolution was signed by Gov. Terry Branstad this afternoon.

"Dr. Norman Borlaug's life serves as an inspiration not just for Iowans, but for all of humanity," said King. "His work sparked an agricultural revolution which helped to feed over one billion people in some of the most impoverished areas of the globe, a stunning scientific and humanitarian success by any measure. Dr. Borlaug is one of the transcendent figures in American science, and he is one of only five people who have ever earned the Nobel Peace Prize, the Congressional Gold Medal, and the Presidential Medal of Freedom. Placing his statue in the U.S. Capitol is a fitting honor."

In February, Congressman King signed a letter sent by Iowa's Congressional delegation to Iowa's state legislative leaders urging them to consider a resolution to honor Dr. Borlaug in this manner.

As the recipient of the Nobel Peace Prize, the Congressional Gold Medal, and the Presidential Medal of Freedom, Dr. Borlaug is one of only 5 individuals to have received all three honors. The other members of this group include Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., Mother Theresa, Nelson Mandela, and Elie Wiesel.

As background, in 1864 the United States Congress passed legislation authorizing each state to place two statues of notable citizens on display in Statuary Hall. Iowa is currently represented by statues of Samuel Kirkwood and James Harlan. Kirkwood served as Iowa's governor during the Civil War, and as Secretary of the Interior. Harlan, who also served as Secretary of the Interior, served as a U.S. Senator from 1855-1865.

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